

26 August 1969

Kenneth G. Wickham
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C. 20315

Dear General Wickham:

STATINTL Your letter of 15 August 1969, addressed to [redacted] of the Central Intelligence Agency, with respect to the declassification and release of certain OSS documents, has been referred to this office for reply.

The Strategic Services Unit, which is charged with responsibility for the residual activities of OSS, has no objection to the declassification and release of the reports attached to your letter.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]
Executive Secretary

cc: Chief, Support ✓
Services Staff

STATINTL

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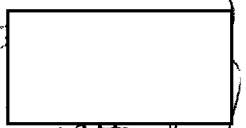
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Handled 8/25/69

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22 August 19



15-4124

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Strategic Services Unit

SUBJECT : Army Request to Declassify OSS Documents

1. The U. S. Army Adjutant General has requested a review for possible declassification and release to Mr. E. E. Hyden, Pearl City, Hawaii, an unofficial researcher, of two reports concerning OSS efforts toward repatriation of prisoners of war in China in 1945. The Adjutant General proposes to declassify and release the material.

2. I have sent to the Director of Security the two reports the AGO sent us for review and concurrence. Attached for your information is a copy of the subject reports.

3. I have requested the Director of Security to take the necessary action, to coordinate with you and respond directly through your normal procedures to satisfy the AGO request. Please provide me with a copy of the response.



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Chief, Support Services Staff

Attachments:

- Operation Report - 20 Aug. '45 - 2 pp.
- Situation Report - 19 Aug. '45 - 6 pp.

DDS/SSS/RAB/[]ms (22 August 1969)

Distribution:

- Orig. & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - SSS Subject
- 1 - SSS Chrono
- 1 - RAB Subject
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

15 AUG 1969

AGAR-S (9077/1)

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[Redacted]
Office of Security
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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[Redacted]
Representatives of the Washington National Records Center have forwarded the two attached reports for review for possible declassification and release to Mr. E. E. Hyden of Pearl City, Hawaii, an unofficial researcher.

These reports concern OSS efforts to contact allied prisoners of war for repatriation at internee camps located in China. We have no objection to the declassification and release of this material. Therefore, we propose to declassify and release it subject to your concurrence.

Request your comments concerning the proposed declassification and release of subject reports to Mr. Hyden.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Wickham
KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

2 Incl

1. Situation Report
for Conf to be held
19 Aug 45, Dtd 19 Aug 45 (C)
2. Operational Reports
received from teams now
in POW & Internee camp
areas, 20 Aug 45 (C)

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED
WHEN SEPARATED FROM
CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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20 August 1945

Operational Reports Received from Teams Now in POW and Internee Camp Areas

1. Mukden - OSS Teams.

a. Mukden North airfield in good condition with 3900 foot runway.

b. Word has been sent to Mukden team that as soon as permission has been received to evacuate prisoners, General Wainwright and whomever else he wishes to bring with him will be flown to Chungking. If the former Governor of the Netherlands East Indies is interned and available in the Mukden area, it is contemplated that he will be flown out on the same plane.

c. No further word has been received from Major Lamar who is enroute to contact General Wainwright.

d. There are 11 patients in the Mukden area who should be evacuated at the earliest practicable date.

e. Colonel Mathuda is in charge of both the Mukden and Hsian camps. He has been very cooperative.

f. Clothing, rations and miscellaneous supplies have been requested by the team. The request has been forwarded to GHQ, USAF Pacific for action.

2. Weihhsien - OSS Team

a. 19 August a supply plane was warned by a panel signal not to land at Weihhsien. The plane returned with supplies since they were notpacked for air drop.

b. A later report stated that there were approximately 500 Japs in the area. Many troops were on the field and in strategic points around the field, observing action of team through field glasses.

c. It was reported that there is no great emergency concerning the health of the prisoners.

d. Many prisoners have indicated preference to remain where they are until they can return to their homes in China.

e. The team reports that the situation is successful as a result of cooperation between the team and the internees.

f. Non-critical medical supplies have been requested and arrangements are being made to supply them, either from China or Pacific.

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g. Peking - OSS Team.

(1) A 19 August report stated that 12 prisoners in Fengtai would be removed to Peking that day.

(2) 317 prisoners have been reported by Japanese commander in Peking to be in that immediate area:

- (a) American 117
- (b) British 32
- (c) Canadian 24
- (d) Dutch 135
- (e) Filipino 1

Arrangements have been made for team members to contact prisoners on 19 August. No report of civilian internees in that area to date.

d. Canton

On 18 August leaflets were dropped on White Cloud Airdrome and POW areas in South end of city. No AA fire was encountered. The streets were crowded and people were observed reading the leaflets.

e. Hongkong - Kowloon.

On 18 August leaflets were dropped on KAITAK Airdrome and POW Areas. No AA fire was encountered. Huge crowds were observed in the streets picking up the leaflets and waving back.

f. There has been no confirmation as yet of the safe arrival of teams reported to have taken off for Shanghai, Canton, ~~HONGKONG~~ Hongkong, Hanoi, and other camps.

g. Keijo Area, Korea.

All prisoners of war safe and well according to Japanese. Team not yet allowed to report, first hand, on conditions and numbers.

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COPY

19 August 1945

SITUATION REPORT FOR OFFICE WIDE TO BE HELD 19 AUGUST '45.

1. Basic Authority and Background.

a. W. D. letter, 21 April 1945 - "Contact teams should be set up to initiate these measures (orientation, feeding, housing, clothing, administration, and disposing of re-covered personnel) at the earliest possible moment.

b. Before the capitulation of the enemy, G-5 Section made a study for the use of contact teams to be sent to POW and Internee Camps in China, Korea, Formosa, Hainan Island and French Indo-China. G-5's recommendations for the use of OSM and AFM personnel to make up these teams was approved. Army Air Forces, China Theater, had been charged with the responsibility of flying in the teams (letter 14 August 1945).

c. G-5 charged with the responsibility of establishing contact with the view of assisting Allied POW's and Internees, in their dealings with the Japanese until such time as allied occupational forces had arrived in the various areas (Theater Circular, Number 123, 16 August 1945).

d. Leaflets.

(1) Leaflet "A" - To POW's and Internees immediately.

Contained instructions as follows: Remain in camp area until further instruction. Maintain law and order. In case of Japanese surrender, Allied forces to be sent to the camp to care for your needs and eventual evacuation to your homes. The end is near, do not be disheartened. Plans are under way to assist you at the earliest possible moment.

(2) Leaflet "B" - The Japanese in areas of POW and internee camps to be dropped immediately after capitulation with the following instructions:

a. Terms of surrender

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- b. An official representative of the Allied Supreme Commander is enroute to the area to establish liaison between all Allied POW's and Civilian Internees, and this headquarters.
- c. You are to assist, in any way possible, this humanitarian mission.
- d. Continue feeding, clothing, providing medical care and maintenance of general welfare.
- e. Cooperate with the International Red Cross and representatives of this headquarters to assure the security of Allied liberated personnel.
- f. Remind the Japanese commanders of their responsibility.

(5) Leaflet "G" - To POW's and Civilian Internees, Immediately after the capitulation with the following instructions:

- a. Nature and terms of surrender
- b. Responsibility of Japanese military.
- c. Liaison teams on their way for humanitarian purposes, to assist in welfare needs.
- d. Liaison teams will coordinate with Red Cross and Japanese military in all plans to assure the security of personnel and to take emergency action to properly house, feed, clothe and furnish medical assistance as well as to assist in maintaining order in the camp until occupational forces arrive.
- e. Liaison teams will not have authority to act for Allied forces in the rendering of any decisions military, civilian or otherwise.

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(4) Leaflet "C" - B-24 flying a leaflet mission over Saigon caught light to moderate flack and ground fire, however, no damage was reported and the leaflets were successfully dropped. Enemy aircraft in this area did not make any attempt to evade or attack.

2. Mission of the Emergency Liaison Team.

Sole purpose is to establish liaison with POW's and internees and is a humanitarian mission only (emphasize this).

3. Plans for this operation have been forwarded and progress reports will be made to the War Department.

4. Press releases on subject matter covered in these conferences will be handled by the Theater Public Relations Officer.

5. General Locations and Statistics of POW and Internee Camps.

a. Hulien Area - U.S. POW's and internees 1205; Allied POW's and internees 2392; Total 3597.

b. Shanghai Area - U.S. POW's and internees 705; Allied POW's and internees 8336; Total 9041.

c. Hainan Island - U.S. POW's and internees 0; Allied POW's and internees 2800; Total 2800.

d. Hongkong Area - U.S. POW's and internees 165; Allied POW's and internees 5760; Total 5925.

e. Peking Area - U.S. POW's and internees 1174; Allied POW's and internees 1523; Total 2697.

f. Korea Area - U.S. POW's and internees 0; Allied POW's and internees 1077; Total 1077.

g. Fernosa Area - U.S. POW's and internees 44; Allied POW's and internees 2420; Total 2464.

h. French Indo-China Area - U.S. POW's and internees 215; Allied

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POW's and internees 5410; Total 5685.

6. Coordination of supplies for POW and internee camps between China Theater and:

a. Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Pacific Area for China, Formosa, Korea, and Hainan Island.

b. Southeast Asia Command for French Indo-China.

7. The following information will be available from reports submitted by OSS and ARAS:

a. Exact location of known POW and internee camps and those located that were heretofore unknown.

b. Number of personnel in camps broken down by nationality and classification.

c. General condition of POW's and internees.

d. VIP's present and their general condition.

e. Emergency supplies needed.

f. Supplies received by air-drop or other methods since 15 August 1945

8. Operational Reports Received from Teams Now in POW and Internee Camp Areas.

a. Weihaiwei - OSS Teams. POW camp located two (2) miles south-east of city.

(1) Number of personnel in camp: 1528, of which 250 are Americans, 1038 British, 285 other nationalities.

(2) Physical condition: 27 sick in Hospital, 20 unable to do normal travel.

(3) No medical supplies are needed, however, due to lack of food, supplementary rations are needed.

(4) Situation: Sixty (60) Japs in the camp offered no resistance to the arrival and assumption of command by the liaison teams. Prisoner of War council composed of 8 British and 1 American and is efficiently handling the administration of the camp. Internees and Chinese troops are working together on local defenses. Chinese troops are guarding the area outside of the camp, however, Jap forces are guarding a surrounding wall. Internees are guarding the camp interior. Swiss council, EGIEL, from Tsingtao arrived at camp on 18 August, and was cooperative.

(5) B-24 planned to take off at 1500 18 August to fly in a load of rations and evacuate 8 litter cases. No additional information has been received on this mission.

b. Peking - OSS teams. Team landed successfully in the Peking area and were advised by Lieutenant General Takahashi, Japanese Army, that the war was not officially over. The team, however, was not mal-treated by the Japanese. The team was unable to contact the POW's or internees as General Takahashi advised that they must await permission from Nanking. This permission was expected to be granted today, meanwhile, the team was allowed to send cigarettes to the camp and some supplies. Permission was granted to operate radio in-the-clear, however, text is subject to Japanese censorship. Swiss council who is representing U.S. Government at this point and is cooperating in allowing us to store property of the team in his area. Permission has been requested to land aircraft at anearby field when the Japanese have been notified that the war is officially over.

c. Mukden Area - OSS Teams. Mukden team was successfully dropped by parachute and landed within 300 yards of POW and internee camp gate at 1030 16 August. Prisoners in the compound were seen wildly waving. No attempt was made by the Japanese to thwart this operation. This flight was

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flown from one of our forward bases in the elapsed time of 11 hours and 45 minutes. Information has been received that Major General George M. Fuku is the leader of this camp. Mainwright is located at Helen POW camp approximately 100 miles northeast of Hukden. The team is attempting to locate and return General Mainwright to this headquarters.

d. Shanghai - Report has been received from the Swiss Government that their Charge d' Affaires will welcome the emergency liaison team in Shanghai. Arrangements are now being completed to effect this coordination.

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